

March 11, 2014

Chairman Tercyak, Chairman Holder-Winfield, and members of the Labor and Public Employees Committee, I want to thank you for hearing my concerns regarding Senate Bill 242. My name is Kathleen Womelsdorf and I am a resident of Wallingford, CT. I am asking that you pass Senate Bill 242, as I truly believe it will resolve an oversight to a piece of legislation that has already been enacted. The Bill that I am referring to was SB 913, Public Act 11-52. This Bill provides paid sick leave to employees who do not already receive this benefit from their employers. This Bill became effective in January of 2012. The oversight I am referring to is that while this Bill covers many employees in the service industry and almost all in the healthcare field of similar occupations, it neglects to cover Diagnostic Imaging Professionals. It is my understanding that medical imaging technologists were inadvertently left off of the list of healthcare professionals that this law provides sick-leave benefits to.

I have worked for over 25 years in the cardiac catheterization laboratory at Yale New Haven Hospital. I work side by side with many health care providers. The most effective way I can think of to convey to you how I believe that Radiologic Technologists should be covered in this piece of legislation is to describe my situation. After the birth of my children I changed my hours from 40 hours a week to 16 scheduled hours a week. I take on-call shifts, holidays, nights and weekends. When I am on call, at any given time I can get activated for an emergency at night or on the weekends. When I do get beeped in, or activated, I rush in to the hospital to meet the EMT's, Paramedics, ER nurses and ER Techs, all bringing a critically ill patient to our lab. My counter parts to the team in the lab are two nurses. A respiratory therapist will come and connect the patient to a ventilator. It occurred to me that every person in that room with the exception of me is covered by the old Bill as it stands. As a radiologic technologist, if my children are sick or if I am ill, I do not receive the same sick-leave benefit as the other members on the team. I am only asking that you pass Senate Bill 242 to resolve this situation. I believe all the people on the team that I am honored to be a part of, provide an equal level of service and should be afforded the same rights and benefits. Diagnostic Imaging Professionals, including Radiologic Technologists, should be covered under this important piece of legislation. I want to thank you for your time and ask that you vote in favor of Senate Bill 242.

Respectfully,

Kathleen Womelsdorf